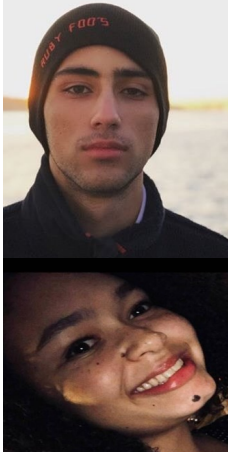
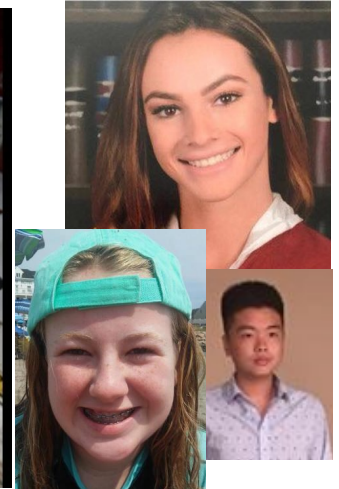


## Unimaginable Grief and Common Sense



(CNS/Lucy Nicholson, Reuters)



"In the aftermath of the tragic attack at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida, Bishop Frank J. Dewane of Venice, Florida, Chairman of the **US Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB)** Committee on Domestic Justice and Human Development, and Bishop George V. Murry, S.J., of Youngstown, Ohio, Chairman of the Committee on Catholic Education, urged national leaders to finally come together and address the crisis of gun violence in a comprehensive way.

The full [statement](#) follows:

"Once again, we are confronted with grave evil, the murder of our dear children and those who teach them. Our prayers continue for those who have died, and those suffering with injuries and **unimaginable grief**. We also continue our **decades-long advocacy for common-sense gun measures** as part of a comprehensive approach to the reduction of violence in society and the protection of life.

Specifically, this moment calls for an honest and practical dialogue around a series of concrete proposals—not partisanship and overheated rhetoric. **The idea of arming teachers seems to raise more concerns than it addresses.** Setting a more appropriate **minimum age for gun ownership**, requiring **universal background checks (as the bishops have long advocated)**, and **banning 'bump stocks'** are concepts that appear to offer more promise. We must explore ways to curb violent images and experiences with which we inundate our youth, and ensure that law enforcement have the necessary tools and incentives to identify troubled individuals and get them help.

Most people with mental illness will never commit a violent act, but mental illness has been a significant factor in some of these horrific attacks. We must look to increase resources and seek earlier interventions.

**For many years, the USCCB has supported a federal ban on assault weapons**, limitations on civilian access to high-capacity weapons and ammunition magazines, further criminalizing gun trafficking, certain limitations on the purchase of handguns, and safety measures such as locks that prevent children and anyone other than the owner from using guns without permission.

The advocacy by survivors of the Parkland shooting—and young people throughout our nation—is a stark reminder that guns pose an enormous danger to the innocent when they fall into the wrong hands. The voices of these advocates should ring in our ears as they describe the peaceful future to which they aspire. **We must always remember what is at stake as we take actions to safeguard our communities and honor human life.** In the words of St. John, 'let us love not in word or speech but in deed and truth' (1 Jn. 3:18)."

Go to [FaithsUnited.org](http://FaithsUnited.org) to learn more about interfaith efforts to reduce gun deaths in the US.

Call your members of Congress to advocate for policies to protect against gun violence: (202) 224-3121

## The Eucharist Commits Us to Our Neighbors in Need



### 2018 Diocesan Social Ministry Conference

Thursday April 26

Mass: 11:00am

Conference: 12:00pm-5:00pm

Registration 10:30am-11:00am, 11:45 am-12:00pm

Notre Dame Retreat House,  
5151 Foster Road, Canandaigua NY

**\$20 registration fee  
includes lunch and materials**

**Registration Deadline:  
Friday April 20**

**Contact the Justice & Peace Staff member  
from your county to register.  
See list below.**

**Workshops and discussions on  
social concerns including  
The Opioid Crisis/ Life Issues/  
Refugees & Immigrants/  
Anti-Hunger advocacy  
PLUS: Social Ministry success stories  
from our parishes**

## Our Work is Not Done

Thanks to Bishop Matano, our Diocesan Public Policy Committee, pastors, parish staff and social ministry volunteers, we collected **8,446** petition signatures in support of the DREAM Act and humane immigration policies.

Justice & Peace Ministry staff have already begun delivering these signatures to our federal elected officials.



**Share the  
Journey** ✨  
#sharejourney

HOWEVER, recent federal court decisions have blocked the president's executive order that would have ended the DACA program for young people brought to this country without documentation. This means they aren't in immediate risk of deportation, but still don't have permanent legal status. If Congress doesn't act, the Supreme Court will likely rule on this case, but probably not until next year.

This means Congress can more easily choose to ignore this issue yet again.

So we need YOU to continue to speak out for a legislative **solution for Dreamers that includes a path to citizenship** and to ask your elected officials to reject any proposals that threaten family-based immigration and spend inordinate funding on border security.

### Remembering Dr. King: Celebrate His Vision, Work for Peace and Justice

"I believe that unarmed truth and unconditional love will have the final word in reality. That is why right, temporarily defeated, is stronger than evil triumphant."

-Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. January 15 1929– April 4, 1968

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